

Ladies and gents of the board of Commissioners, Ravalli County, MT 8-25-08

With great dismay I am reading of your ways of government for the county you wanted to serve and I hope that in my small way I can possibly impress you that this is the wrong way –fundamentally.

You seeked and were elected for the job of county commissioner to decide and govern so to speak for the benefit of the county citizenship - among other things.

Governing for the benefit of its citizenship can be interpreted many ways

For instance, allow me to be a bit specific:

If I worked hard all my life and saved to finally be able to afford buying a beautiful piece of land in Ravalli County ,maybe I did so. I did so with the understanding that I can now enjoy the privacy, the views etc that this piece would afford to give me.

I believed that in the US and in the state of Montana, private property is just that Private property.

Now we all know that any property is expensive. The more folks that want it, the more desirable it becomes.

By the very nature of private property, they are going to be lots of good folks that don't have and maybe never will own what their neighbors have .There will be many individual reasons – these become unimportant to our individual above.

What he sees is that he doesn't have what others do.To him that is not "fair"

So he elects a governing body that will legislatively give him what others worked for

And he never got – anyway..The council then votes into law that beautiful country has to be for the benefit "of all" – takes away private ownership from individuals that trusted US private ownership laws and history and redistributes.

Do I have to go on? Having done so,allow another 10-20 years to pass, a new crowd grows up and sees the landscape. They want a part to.A new law gets passed nobody is allowed to own privately more than lets say 5 acres.. Should I go on? Another 10-20 years....

As is readily clear to anyone with even limited insight, once you abandon private property there is no end to redistribution of ownership in the name of public good. We called that government ideation communism and we all know that societies that believe in it, fail miserably over time.

Enough of the fable which it really isn't.

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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You created a body to make recommendations for the use of streamside land in Ravalli county. Much of desirable streamside land is owned by the government, federal and state, some is owned by citizens called private property.

We now apparently have a streamside setback committee appointed by you that believes in above fable.

It rightfully thinks that by restricting how a private owner enjoys his property they can enrich what the public at large requests.

There is no end as to what a government can do once that knowledge sinks in
Redistribution of property in its broadest sense.

There is one big ugly fly in the soup: government has to abandon the thought of private property rights.. We the government will decide what is good for you and us all.

Sounds familiar?

To give this government body appointed by you a bit more realistic color::

It knows there will be public outcry, so they pass an ordinance that all their hearings
Will not be public but rather secret.

Remember you and any government were elected to serve the public, and now you or
your committees are afraid of the light?

Why? Public opinions become a nuisance? You know what is best for the public?

As I quote a member of the SS Committee: “ It is time to stand up for ourselves and what
WE KNOW TO BE RIGHT, outside naysayers deserving no due consideration”

What a self-damning proclamation of government gone wrong !

Where with all your self-proclaimed wisdom that does not need outside testimony or
opinions will you go next?

Think of it ! there is no limit what you can achieve in the dark – for a while .

I agree that this SS committee is self-serving, that its ideation is wrong as it does not
respect what is and always has been private property.

A government has not the right to limit or take away what its citizen worked for.
On the contrary it has the obligation to protect it.

Undoubtedly the committee shrouds its philosophy in some envelope that is purportedly

The common good, but the end result is the same. A government that knows better what
the citizen can have and do with their own property.

I hereby make the suggestion that all view properties that enjoy access or view to the
famous Bitterroots range be restricted so all of us can enjoy the same.

Lets start by restricting ownership to 1-2 acres, as the crowd grows, will restructure our governance.

Because we know best what is good for us all ☺

In view of this total disregard of private property in a our non communist society and the evidence to attempt to ram home their own ideation of what is good

I call the Ravalli County Commissioners to fire the entir SS subcommittee immediatedly and without excuse.

Government gone wrong would be the reason

Then as in any subcommittee formed , appoint folks that are honest and thoughtful,not opportunist that like a better world at somebody elses expense.

Have a minimum of 50 % of the members actually involved in the outcome of their deliberations.

I would think 70% would actually more honest – if you are talking taking things way From the citizen by the government

Lets stop the philosophy that a government knows better than its citizen what is good for them

Lets stop the practice of circumnavigating dissent by meeting in secret without time for the public to at least review and voice opinions.

Lets abandon this governance of convenience because you know better ...

The SS subcommittee chairman is on record to inform its membership to avoid attendance as full attendance would obligate public disclosure.

How wrong can a government be?

You are the directing government for these atrocities and only you can redirect the ship on another honest course that does not fear daylight and respects historic rights of private property in its simplest form.

Respectfully

Dietmar & Gisela Habeck

PS

Based on evidently wrong belief of what private property means and entails

We bought with our life savings several lots of land in Ravalli County.

Maybe we did wrong and should have gone to Mexico or Argentina?